Oasis 73

Lord of the Oasis

Chapter 73: Migrating Sand Gazelles

Kant was awoken by the sound of someone shouting.

His head was heavy with slumber still. There was the sound of a palm beating urgently on the wooden door, and it was mixed with a rough voice. Kant stepped out into the corridor outside the room. "My Lord, wake up quickly."

"Stop knocking."

There was anger still lingering from being awoken so abruptly. Kant forced himself to suppress it and said helplessly, "You'll pay with Denar if you break the door."

Kant lifted the wool blanket and quickly put on his clothes. He opened the door and looked at the embarrassed and excited infantry outside. He could not help but shake his head and said, "What happened? Did the enemy attack?"

"No, we found a herd of sand gazelles."

The Swadian footman gulped and quickly reported, "They are migrating near us!"

"What?" Kant had an incredulous expression.

He looked at the footman, unable to think straight after a night's sleep. He could not help but blurt out, "You said that there are sand gazelles migrating near us?"

"Yes, my Lord!" The light footman nodded resolutely.

Kant rubbed his face. "Is it April Fools' Day Now? I don't remember there being such a festival in Caradia."

But he walked down the stairs anyway.

After all, seeing is believing. One only needed to take a look to see if there were any sand gazelles migrating near the Oasis Lookout.

"My Lord, Good Morning."

"Good Morning, Lord Kant!"

In the Council Hall, Swadian cavalry wearing chain armor were standing guard.

Kant nodded. "Good morning."

As he walked out of the Council Hall, there was no bustling crowd outside the street.

Instead, at the western end of the street, many people were gathering at the sugar workshop. Swadian Heavy Cavalry, Swadian Footmen, Sarrandian horsemen, and the Ravenstern rangers were all blocking the street.

"What happened?"

Kant frowned. He saw that Firentis and Ma Nide were also standing there.

They were all looking outside, full of vigor.

"Are there really sand gazelles migrating? How can there be such creatures migrating in this damned place?"

Kant was helpless. His curiosity was piqued and he quickly walked over.

The Nahrin Desert did not have the rich vegetation resources of the Senwaya Range, nor did it have the streams and water pools that were commonly seen in the Senwaya Range. It was not a place where creatures like the sand gazelles lived.

Sand gazelles. Despite their name, it was not like they could really live in the desert.

They could only adapt very slightly to the desert environment.

Rather, compared to other creatures, they had evolved their own way of living in the desert.

"Lord Kant, you're here."

Ma Nide heard footsteps behind him and turned his head to see Kant walking over quickly.

With a smile on his face, he said to Kant in surprise, "I didn't expect the Oasis Lookout to be part of the sand gazelles' migration route. In the future, we can hunt these gazelles for food, and their hide for leather products."

"Are there really sand gazelles?" Kant was slightly stunned.

Firentis also nodded affirmatively and pointed outside. "There are many, my lord."

The other soldiers also saw Kant walking over and bowed their heads respectfully. At the same time, they gave him a path to the outside so that Kant could see for himself in front.

"I see." Kant nodded in response.

Walking forward, the newly appeared small lake was sparkling. His eyes looked at the lake to the west, and then they widened as if he had discovered a new continent. "This... There are so many?!" He could not help but exclaim.

What they said was that there were sand gazelles migrating. From Kant's point of view, it was not just a lot.

It was an overwhelming number!

Thousands of sand gazelles were gathering and sticking their heads out to drink from the lake.

They were orderly and vigilant. Many sand gazelles were poking their heads out of the lake to look in the direction of Drondheim. Their eyes, dark as black pearls, did not allow strangers into their depths.

Their small bodies were vigorous and agile.

Tufts of black hair cut across their necks from the top of their heads to the end of their backs. Among the pale yellow fur on their bodies, they looked like a long black line, adding to the spirituality of the little thing.

There were also two long horns that were spiraling slightly above their heads, like sharp swords that pierced through the sky.

"How did they appear here?"

Kant swallowed, the shock disappearing from his expression..

Firentis said from behind, "We found them when we were patrolling this morning. They came from the Senwaya Range, and it wasn't just this herd. Many herds of sand gazelles had passed before, but they weren't as numerous as this herd."

"I know they came from the Senwaya Range."

Kant nodded. He had known this since he was young. The sand gazelles in the Senwaya Range was a delicacy on the plates of noble families.

But looking at the sand gazelle in front of him, he could not help but ask, "I want to know why they went to the depths of the desert. Is there something in the depths of the desert that attracts them?"

A herd of cute little things risking their lives to enter the desert was unusual.

The surrounding soldiers frowned slightly. They did not understand either.

"I may have an idea."

Ma Nide suddenly spoke. His tone was slightly hesitant, but after some thought, he still asked Kant, "I remember that you once talked about the sand gazelles in the Senwaya Range. At the end of the month, even the most outstanding hunter of the Dukedom of Leo would find it difficult to catch one during this time, right?"

"That's right. Everyone in the Dukedom of Leo knows about it." Kant nodded.

This interesting matter was recorded in some books, but they did not take it seriously. After all, there were a few days a month when they could not eat the sand gazelle meat, so it did not matter too much.

But who would have thought that these sand gazelles would actually appear here?

This made Kant curious.

Ma Nide continued, "Moreover, in the ruins of the Jackalan Tribe, we once found burnt dried meat, which were all made of these sand gazelle. At the same time, I remember that your first battle in the Nahrin Desert was to kill the hunting team of the Little Jackalan Tribe that originally occupied the Oasis Lookout."

"Yes, that's right. It's true." Kant frowned, and the image of that time appeared in his mind.

In his memory, he seemed to have arrived at the Oasis Lookout at the end of the month. With this thought in mind, Kant understood. "You mean to say that, in the last week of the month, there will be sand gazelles migrating near Oasis Lookout?"

"That's right." Ma Nide nodded slightly. "It's very simple, then. Perhaps there is something in the Nahrin desert that is attracting these sand gazelles, even if it they have to risk their lives to go in."

Kant frowned slightly.

Firentis and the other soldiers who surrounded them were all staring at them in a daze.

Obviously, they had not reacted yet.

Looking at the puzzled gazes around him, Ma Nide said with certainty, "It's salt."

"Salt?" The surrounding soldiers were still in a daze.

They were all model warriors. If they were asked for a way to kill the enemy in the shortest time, then they would be able to come up with seven or eight of the most effective ways instantly.

But this kind of question was obviously difficult for them to deal with.

Kant opened his mouth, and his furrowed brows slightly relaxed. "You're referring to the natural salt mines? If that's the case, then maybe you're right."

"That's right. This is the most reasonable explanation." Ma nide nodded.

At the same time, he also explained to Firentis and the other soldiers, "The sand gazelles should be similar to those creatures in the Salander Desert. They have a lot of vigor and so they need to replenish a lot of salt. Therefore, they need to migrate to the salt mines in the depths of the desert to restore their salt levels, and they will use the water source of the Oasis Lookout as a transit station."

Ma Nide said, "This is also the reason why the Jackalan Tribe would have the dried meat of the sand gazelle. There are the carcasses of the sand gazelle in the salt mines and here in the Oasis Lookout as well, which was once occupied by the Jackalan Tribe."

"I see." The surrounding soldiers suddenly understood.

Ma Nide chuckled and said, "Lord Kant, perhaps this is a good opportunity to stock up on food."

"Of course." Kant also smiled and nodded.

He waved at the Ravenstern Rangers behind him. He pointed at the sand gazelles and asked, "Can you help me set aside some of the gazelles? Fresh gazelle meat is better than dried meat, after all."

Lord of the Oasis

Chapter 74: Needlegrass Meadows Acquirerd

There were so many gazelles. It would be a pity if they did not set aside a few to eat.

Just as well, Kant had with him the Ravenstern Rangers who boasted excellent archery skills. After all, they were a Level 5 troop, so hunting these little cuties would be a piece of cake.

"Easy enough."

The 20 Ravenstern Rangers nodded, their expressions unchanging.

The lake was only 30 meters wide—more accurately, it should be called a pond—and it could not pose much of a hindrance to the heavy bows in their hands. The gazelles were also gathered in a dense herd, so there was also no need to carefully take aim before firing, like in a jungle hunt.

One after the other, they raised their heavy bows, the bowstring and bow arm stretched out in a beautiful arc.

They loaded a special high-grade cone arrow...

Took aim calmly...

At the target from afar.

The Ravenstern Rangers released their grip on the arrow. The accumulated power of the bow arm was instantly converted into kinetic energy for the arrow, and the bowstring vibrated ceaselessly, firing out cone arrows.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh-

The cone arrows streaked through the air, shuttling through space like a flash of lightning.

Not far away from the pond, blood splattered everywhere.

The 20 gazelles that were still drinking by the lake collapsed instantly. Their eyes, which were bright like black pearls, had completely lost their luster.

That was because the arrowheads had already pierced through their eyes.

The arrows had violently destroyed their eyes, hard arrowheads piercing deep into their skulls and crushing their brains. They pierced through their tilted skulls, dragging out white brain matter and bright red blood.

The gazelles fell, dyeing the lake water red.

All of this happened in a single moment.

The other gazelles barely had time to react. What had happened?

"Baa Baa Baa..."

Only a few of the surrounding gazelles moved aside. They looked at the other gazelle companions lying on the ground by the lake, puzzled, and they only understood when they smelled the blood. The bleats tore their throats as they jumped and ran, and all of them scattered into the depths of the desert.

These small creatures were extremely vigilant creatures. It was instinct to escape.

"My lord, it's settled."

The Ravenstern Ranger put away his heavy bow. There was a calm look on his face.

This was par for the course to them. It was just a hunt, and there was nothing to be proud of.

However, Kant smiled and nodded. "Thank you for your hard work."

At the same time, he turned his head and instructed the other soldiers behind him, "Round up the gazelles quickly. I think we'll be able to have roasted sheep by noon!"

"Yes, sir! " More than a dozen Swadian Footmen immediately ran across the lake.

There was nothing that could not be solved with a barbeque.

Even if there were, sprinkling some spices would do the trick. And if there were no spices, salt would do.

This was a delicacy from a non-modern era. It was crispy on the outside and tender on the inside, and one would have their mouth full of oily, roasted mutton. It could be served as the main dish for a national banquet. As long as it was dipped in white salt, it would be enough to satisfy one's appetite, even without spices.

Kant, who had eaten enough air-dried meat, could not stop himself from this fresh red meat.

The soldiers were also delighted.

They shared Kant's sentiments. Even if there was no roasted mutton, the taste of simply stewing mutton was equally splendid.

Especially fresh meat soup. Add a bit of chopped cabbage and date palms, and then add some flour after boiling for a period of time, to form a thick soup. Paired with bread, it tasted far better than air-dried meat made into a thick soup.

The dialog box appeared again on their retina.

Ding! A side quest has appeared.

Side quest: Hunt 50 gazelles.

Reward: One acre of Needlegrass Meadow.

Brief: How can you refuse such food this mouth-watering when you lack red meat? This is a good time to hunt. If you can hunt 50 gazelles, then there will be a bountiful reward waiting for you.

Kant was stunned as he took in the sudden mission that had appeared on his retina.

"Hunt 50 sand gazelles..."

He repeated the quest and reward, "One acre of Needlegrass Meadow?"

Subconsciously, he redirected his stunned gaze to the gazelles that were fleeing in the distance. It was only then that Kant realized those little guys had already drunk enough water and continued to move towards the depths of the desert.

In a moment, the thousands of gazelles disappeared among the dunes in the vast sea of sand.

"This..." Kant felt a little helpless.

But before he could say anything, the Swadian footman on guard duty on the Watchtower behind him waved at the ground and shouted, "Heads up, there's another batch of gazelles!"

Kant raised his eyebrows and waved his hand without hesitation. He said, "I need you to set aside 50 gazelles!"

"Understood, my lord."

The 20 Ravenstern Rangers behind him still looked calm.

They drew their arrows from the quivers they had tied around their waist and gently loaded it onto their bows, and then turned their heads to look at the large group of gazelles that had appeared at the dune in the south. There was no pity in their eyes.

They were hunters from the Ravenstern Kingdom, and so they were the best of hunters.

"Baa baa baa... "

The gazelles trudging through the Senwaya range were quite tired.

They whispered to each other and went to the lakeside to drink water. It was obvious they did not understand why the small oasis spring water had become so large.

But they did not care.

In the past, when the gazelles came here, the Jackalans would also be here to hunt.

The frail and weak gazelles would die at the end of each month during their migration.

The Senwaya Range stretched for thousands of miles and was so nebulous it could even obstruct the Nahrin Desert. Even then, the sheer number of gazelles living within it was overwhelming, and so the monthly loss of thousands of gazelles was completely acceptable.

Rather, this was also some sort of natural selection.

Gazelles subsisted on salt.

Once a month, the gazelles in the Senwaya Range would come to the Oasis Lookout in batches and head to the natural salt mine.

In fact, these gazelle did not come every month.

Instead, these gazelles came from different herds and different mountain areas, across 12 months. Every month, gazelles from a certain mountainous area would begin to migrate. Just as they had agreed, this dangerous but necessary migration for salt would commence.

Obviously, Kant did not know.

As the 20 Ravenstern Rangers drew their arrows and fired, 50 gazelles immediately fell to the ground.

All of them were shot in the eyes and not a single one bore damages to their fur.

If possible, these gazelles could be skinned for their hide that could be made into leather products. Skilled craftsmen could go one step further and use these soft gazelle hides to make warm and waterproof fur coats. These were also clothes that the noble sought.

Ding! After your unflagging efforts, the hunt has been completed.

Sudden mission: Gazelle Hunt has been completed.

Reward acquired: One acre of Needlegrass Meadow

Brief: There is nothing like fresh red meat to reward soldiers. When you obtain these needlegrass meadows, you must know that they are also the best green fodder for livestock. Remember to reward your warhorses as well. Perhaps you'll be able to raise some other livestock.

The system dialog box also gave him a hint.

In Kant's mind, the five acres of land marked out as "needlegrass meadow" also appeared in the form of a card.

The lush vegetation grew luxuriously on the sandy land.

Needlegrass was the easiest of the herb to ensure survival for on the sandy land. It was a mediumquality forage grass, and could quickly take root and sprout as long as there was water. It could be used to feed livestock all year round to sate their hunger.

Ding! System prompt.

Needlegrass: In the early days of its life, this plant makes for good feed for livestock. Its stem leaves are tough, long and smooth. It is a very useful fibrous plant for making paper and rayon. It can also be used for weaving baskets, grass curtains, brooms, and the like. Its leaves become extremely tough after soaking in water, and they can be used as grass rope. It can also be used to improve alkaline land, protect water channels, and maintaining water and soil.

The system explained the function of this herb.

Most importantly, it solved a huge problem that Kant was currently facing.

The problem of horse feed!

"We'll be making the most of this, since the warhorses can consume this as well. "

Kant smiled. The one problem that had been weighing on his heart was now resolved.

Although the nutritional value of this green feed was not very high, they could remedy this with a bit of breadcrumbs, date palms, and minced gazelle meat. It would then be completely possible for these tall and big warhorses of the Swadia army to be fed food that were high in nutrition calories, and thus gain an abundance of physical strength.

The effect would only be amplified if they threw the nutrient-rich alfalfa grass into the mix!

"Things are already pretty good now."

Kant was satisfied, and he cast his gaze towards the lake.

He was deep in thought, especially about the vast flat land of sand on the west side of the lake. He also had some idea of what to do with the acre of needlegrass meadow.

"Use it. "

His mind connected to the system, and the card in Kant's mind instantly disappeared.

The data spread.

From the south to the north, on the west side of the 80 by 30 meters lake, large areas of vegetation began to appear.

The sandy layer had turned into sandy land.

Although it was still barren, at least there was soil that could allow the vegetation to grow.

Lush needlegrass began to appear, sprouting and sprouting. In an extremely short time, it appeared at the lakeside in full. The acre of land was even larger. Green filled the expanse from south to north, and there was a scattering of slightly bright flower stamens everywhere.

These were all ready-made grass meadows which could immediately be harvested or grazed on.

Even when the needlegrass meadow appeared, a few small birds, which had already existed in the Oasis Lookout, flapped their wings and flew over from the date palm jungle. They stared curiously at the lush grass meadows with their small eyes.